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## ***Community E-lert®***

DATE: January 3, 2005  
TO: Community E-lert Recipients  
FROM: Jeffrey Chen, Chief of Police  
SUBJECT: Community E-lert #05-001

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*Community E-lert® is a registered trademark of the City of Medina Police Department. This announcement is provided as a public service to residents of Medina and Hunts Point. It is our intention to distribute these E-lerts following an occurrence or condition that may have public safety or community well-being implications. E-lerts are also available via fax for those residents without access to email.*

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### **MAIL THEFTS OCCUR OVER HOLIDAY WEEKEND**

On Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Medina Officers recovered nearly 10 lbs of mail left behind by unknown person(s) that prowled the city over the holiday weekend. Between Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup> and Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, at least 19 residents were victimized.

A clear garbage bag full of mail was recovered in the 8000 block of NE 16<sup>th</sup> Street and another large pile was found on the side of Evergreen Point Road in the 3600 block. Mail recovered was addressed to homes generally in the area of the 1800 to the 3600 block of Evergreen Point road, the 7600 to 8000 block of NE 8<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> Streets, as well as a home in the Medina Heights area and other mail from Bellevue. As no first class mail was recovered, it appears as though the suspect(s) sifted through the mail to remove first class items, leaving the 'junk mail' behind. Mail thieves target first class mail in hopes of gathering personal identifying information which can be used to open other accounts created under the victim's name. Medina Police have increased patrols in the area and are working in conjunction with the U.S. Postal Inspector.

### **CRIME PREVENTION TIPS:**

- If possible, have your mail sent to a Post Office Box, or invest in a locking mailbox.
- Be vigilant about checking your mail soon after it is delivered. If you will be out of town, request the Post Office hold your mail until you return.

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- Please be watchful of your neighborhood and call 911 anytime you see or hear any suspicious activity or noise. An Officer will gladly respond and investigate.
- If you suspect your mail was stolen, report it immediately to your local postmaster or nearest Postal Inspector.

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**Is your mail safe?** Visit the Medina Police Department website at [www.medina-wa.gov](http://www.medina-wa.gov) to learn safety tips to protect your mail and your identity. Select the Police Department link on the left side of the homepage. Once opened, choose 'Crime Prevention', then select the link on the lower right for 'Protect Yourself Against Mail Theft' to learn more.

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If you wish to speak to someone regarding this information, please call the Medina Police Department at (425) 454-1332.